

371.74
Chicago School of Civics
and Philanthropy.



THE

No. 6

Playground

SEPT.

PUBLISHED BY THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

1907



MARCHING FOR FLAG SALUTE

SCENE IN A PLAYGROUND UNDER THE AUSPICES OF BROOKLYN SOCIETY FOR PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS FOR
CHILDREN

8 ASTOR PLACE

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

TEN CENTS A COPY

CITY OF NEW YORK

\$1 PER CALENDAR YEAR

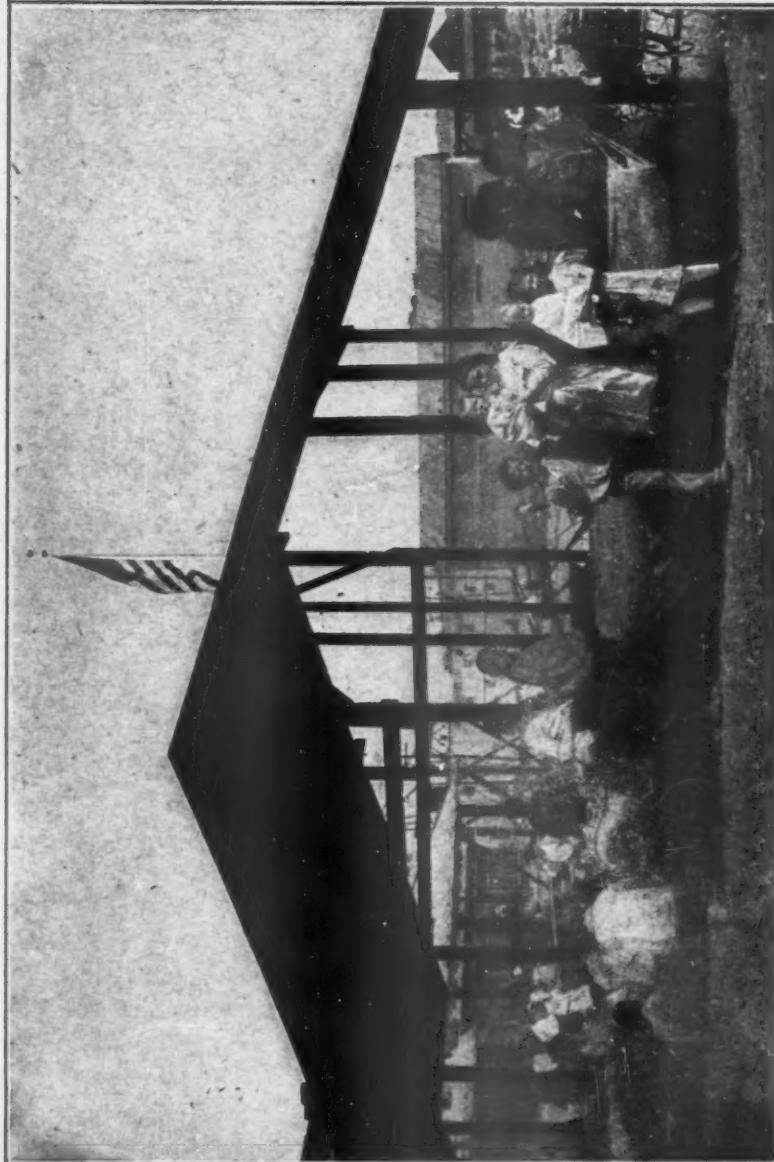
Entered at New York Post Office as Second-class matter.

BROOKLYN SOCIETY FOR PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS FOR CHILDREN.

The purpose of the Society is to provide recreation places for children in the crowded sections of Brooklyn, under the charge of trained directors and assistants, and to co-operate with the city authorities in planning for playgrounds.

Purchase no. 163
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1-6-10



SCENE AT SHELTER FOR BABY HAMMOCKS AT A NEW PLAYGROUND ON
FLUSHING AVENUE, BROOKLYN.

The Playground

WHY HAVE PLAYGROUNDS?

Why? Why does a flower need the light? The child needs a playground because his growth is through activity, through those specific forms of activity which his nature has prescribed; and because, accordingly, he will never grow up—or will grow up stunted and perverted—if he is denied those opportunities and objects to which his vital, instinctive, and formative activities relate.

JOSEPH LEE.

INTRODUCTORY NOTES.

BY EDITOR OF THE SEPTEMBER NUMBER.

Mr. Howard Bradstreet, General Director of the exhibit of the *Playground Association of America* at the Jamestown Exposition, has responded by sending some interesting impressions of the work there and those who come "to see."

The request for "a word from the Secretary" has brought from Dr. Curtis an article on "PLAYGROUND TOURNAMENTS," which will appear in the October issue of *THE PLAYGROUND*.

Two photographs, reproduced in this number, tell of organized play at the NEW YORK STATE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. This reformatory is beautifully situated on an elevation above the river at Hudson, New York. Loyalty to the school and good "team spirit" is evident, and the value of out-door sport is given proper place in the work for delinquent girls.

As indicative of growing interest in Playgrounds throughout the United States and appreciation of the need for them in our large cities, the article from a San Francisco paper is quoted.

The School Pageant has illustration and possibility set forth in the article by Miss Carroll, of the New Paltz State Normal School.

The work of playgrounds in Brooklyn, philanthropically maintained, is briefly told, and the story of the Mother Camp at Coney Island may inspire other Kindergarten Clubs or organizations to establish their own summer playgrounds.

That the children of Japan love to play the story of some of their games, as told by Mr. Honda, will indicate.

The Editor of the September number would need the indulgence of the reader, were it not that these pages of *THE PLAYGROUND* had brought together—like a bouquet—the fragrance of many flowers. Acknowledgements are due those who so happily responded to request for "copy."

CAROLINE MCP. BERGEN.

CITY PLAYGROUNDS—

Cities throughout the country are waking up to playground interests and needs. The following appeared in a recent issue of *The Daily News*, San Francisco:

CITY PLAYGROUNDS.

Americans are waking up in the cities to the needs of public playgrounds for the children.

What sort of citizens may we expect when children are brought up in the street? Will that sort of an education make the future man or woman strong in physique and in morals?

The city play centres, now being provided in several cities, especially solves the problem of what to do with the children in vacation time. While in school the children are fairly well employed in the work and the play of the school. But when vacation comes many mothers who are burdened with household cares or who work for a livelihood can give little attention to their children. The children drift into the street and imbibe the atmosphere of the street.

The public playground, which has a tactful and sympathetic superintendent, offers the assurance to parents that proper conduct shall prevail on the grounds and that dangerous games shall be prohibited.

And the playground teaches children how to play.

Does that sound strange to you whose memory is of a happy childhood and whose children have always known how to play?

If you have closely observed some of the boys from eight to thirteen years of age in certain sections of your city you will note that healthful play has had but little place in their lives. They lounge about and affect the manner of grown persons of their acquaintance. They are old before their time—and some of them are all too old in their knowledge of evil. They are abnormal. Their childhood has been twisted and warped.

Nothing will do more to make men out of this sort of boys than to develop in them the natural love of healthy games.

And the same may be said of girls, who have less opportunity for vigorous and joyous exercise.

The city playground, it has been shown, takes these children, as well as those who are more fortunate, engages their eager attention, entertains them and develops the natural desire for playfulness.

It is a cruel thing to rob a child of its childhood.

Those who live in the country with its free, wide spaces and lack of vicious surroundings can scarcely understand the city conditions under which many boys and girls grow up.

The public playground would justify itself alone upon the fact that it cuts out evil associations. But it does more than that. It changes harmful thoughts and habits into normal and healthful ones.

Philanthropists could do no better thing than to buy and endow in the congested districts of the cities playgrounds for the children. They are needed more than libraries.—*San Francisco Daily News*.

The Playground

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OUR EXHIBIT AT JAMESTOWN.

The exhibit of the Playground Association of America at Jamestown is in two parts, the indoor portion and the outdoor portion, while each of these may be subdivided into the part which is and the part which is yet to be.

The Social Economy Building, for which Miss Minnie Bronson is responsible, is the home of exhibits representing activities of a civic, philanthropic and social nature. It is here that the United States Bureau of Labor is represented, such bodies as the Society for Prevention of Tuberculosis, National Child Labor Committee, American Federation of Labor, Carnegie Library of Pittsburg, National Council of Jewish Women, Local History Club of New York, the Jewish Immigration Commission, have their exhibits, and the work of the Farm Schools, the Civic Improvement of Warren H. Manning and the civic exhibits of Harrisburg, Chester and Kansas City are found.

Among these and many other leaders of present-day movements is the exhibit of the Playground Association of America, stationed near the main entrance of the building.

In spite of the necessarily inadequate notice given to prepare material, large collections of photographs of especial value have been received from Boston, New York, Pittsburg, Rochester, N. Y., Los Angeles, Newark, N. J., St. Paul, while Washington, Providence, R. I., Westfield, N. B., Madison, Wis., Cleveland and Hart-

OUR EXHIBIT AT JAMESTOWN—

ford give a hint at the excellent work done in those cities. Besides these are two very interesting collections of photographs illustrative of life in New York City, one contributed by Ella Tarbox Beals of East 42d Street and the other by the Newspaper Enterprise Association of Park Row.

The contribution of industrial work is very gratifying and very effective. St. Louis, Montclair, Newark, Providence, and Westfield, N. B., have all shown most creditable work done on the playground, which has been placed in cases and hung upon frames.

In the centre of the exhibit stands a table, 6 by 6 feet, containing the model of a playground in operation, illustrating the possibilities in an inexpensive equipment. It contains the outdoor gymnasium, swings, slide, giant stride, tether-ball, basket-ball, wading pool, sand pile, industrial tent, with trees, shrubs, and children of two sizes scattered liberally about, for all of which the credit is largely due to Mr. John H. Chase, playground supervisor.

It is sometimes hard to know whether an exhibit is a success or not, for people may file along gazing with the same indiscriminating fidelity with which a president greets 10,000 guests. Of this model, however, there can be no question.

There are signs and tokens which make sure that a special interest in it exists.

People talk, hover and poke. Any one of these demonstrations would be complimentary, but the combination is satisfying to the soul.

Many kinds of people visit the model. There is the huge-framed, hard-faced woman from way up back in North Carolina, who drags by the hand through the door a huge-framed, hard-faced, short-trousered, reluctant boy.

Her eye rests on the word "Playground," and she is transformed. Her face lights up and softens. She rushes in tugging the boy, who is not yet aware of the attraction. Together they stand transfixed by the side of the table. At last she heaves a sigh and says, "My, ain't it cute!"

Then she edges around the table and confidentially wants to know all about it, and where she can learn more yet, and says as how she's had a lot of children, and this one is fourteen, and ain't much on books.

He has become interested as well, and likewise has softened, so that when he spies an N. or an S. catalogue he whispers excitedly, "What, you all ain't got a new N. or S. catalogue?" and proceeds to devote himself to it with the zeal of a book-lover over a new treasure, picking out in spirit an equipment for '07-'08 which must mortgage his chicken yard were he to have it in the flesh. Meanwhile she hovers and gloats, says good-by several times, and at last with a parting salute over her shoulder she and he move ponderously on.

Then there is the sharp-faced small woman in black, who walks in briskly, sticks up her nose quickly and says in a cutting tone,

—OUR EXHIBIT AT JAMESTOWN

"Humph! Play? If children worked more and played less it would be better for all concerned. Look at Horace Mann and Abraham Lincoln." And away she goes to the next exhibit.

There has been only one of the latter species, but many of the "ain't it cuties."

Besides these extremes are those who say nothing but can't resist the temptation to poke. Silently they stand and look at the kindergarten ring or the dolls on the teeter-ladder. Slowly, but inevitably, they yield to the influence.

The dolls look as though they might move soon, and they wish to see them do it. The sign reads, "Please do not handle," so they don't, they just poke. Whereupon the dolls quietly tumble down and the people quietly move away, while once more the toys are restored and made ready for the next visitor of that type.

Whenever a shift in the apparatus is made a crowd gathers, and twenty or twenty-five of all ages grouped about with open mouths, listening to the nature of the work, is a matter of every half hour.

Then there are the solid people, business men, clergymen, teachers, superintendents, from Montana, California, Alabama, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and New York, and all the States in between.

Some of them are already in the work, some want to be, but all are interested. This part of the exhibit alone has already justified the wisdom of the Local Quorum in coming to Jamestown.

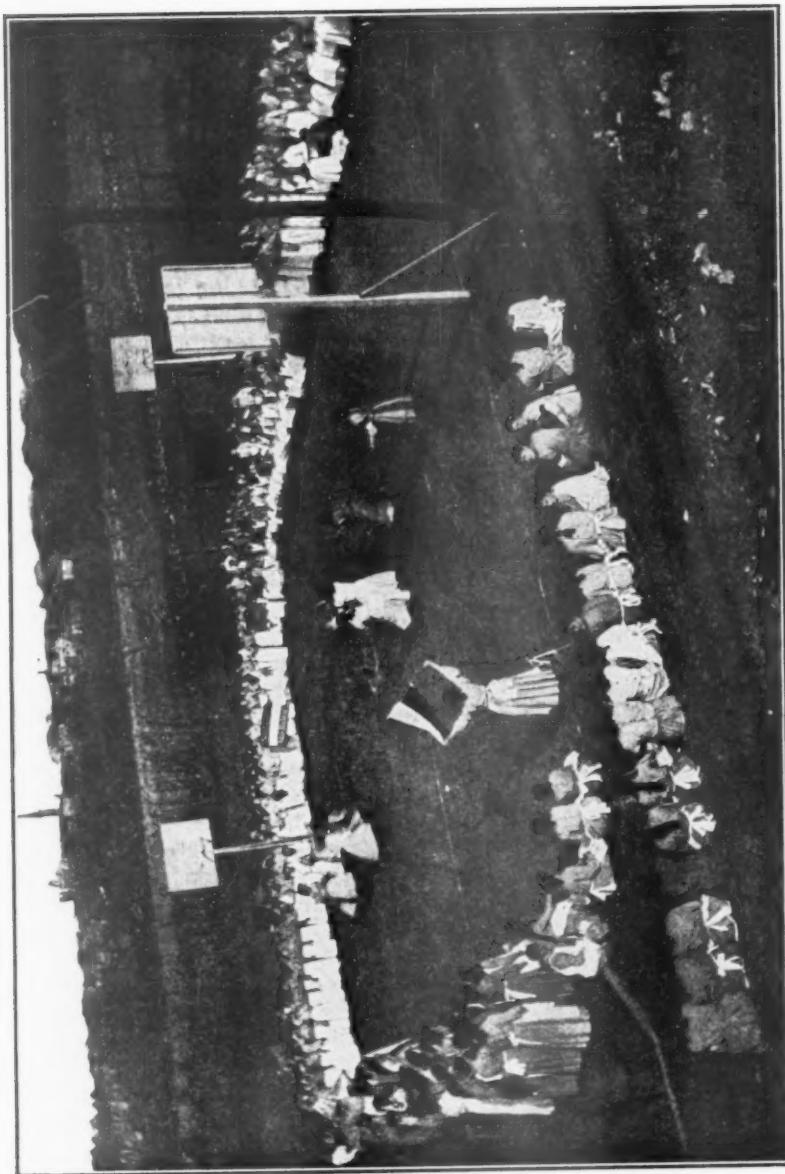
Of the other portions not so much can at present be said, for they belong to the part which is yet to be. The lectures await the lecture hall, and the playground awaits the apparatus, and the apparatus awaits the soil. But the lecture hall is promised, and the apparatus is already half up, in spite of the uneven ground, and only "half up" is enough to bring boys laden with the queries as to when it can be used, how much would it cost, and could there be a basket-ball team.

September 1st will in all probability see the ground in use.

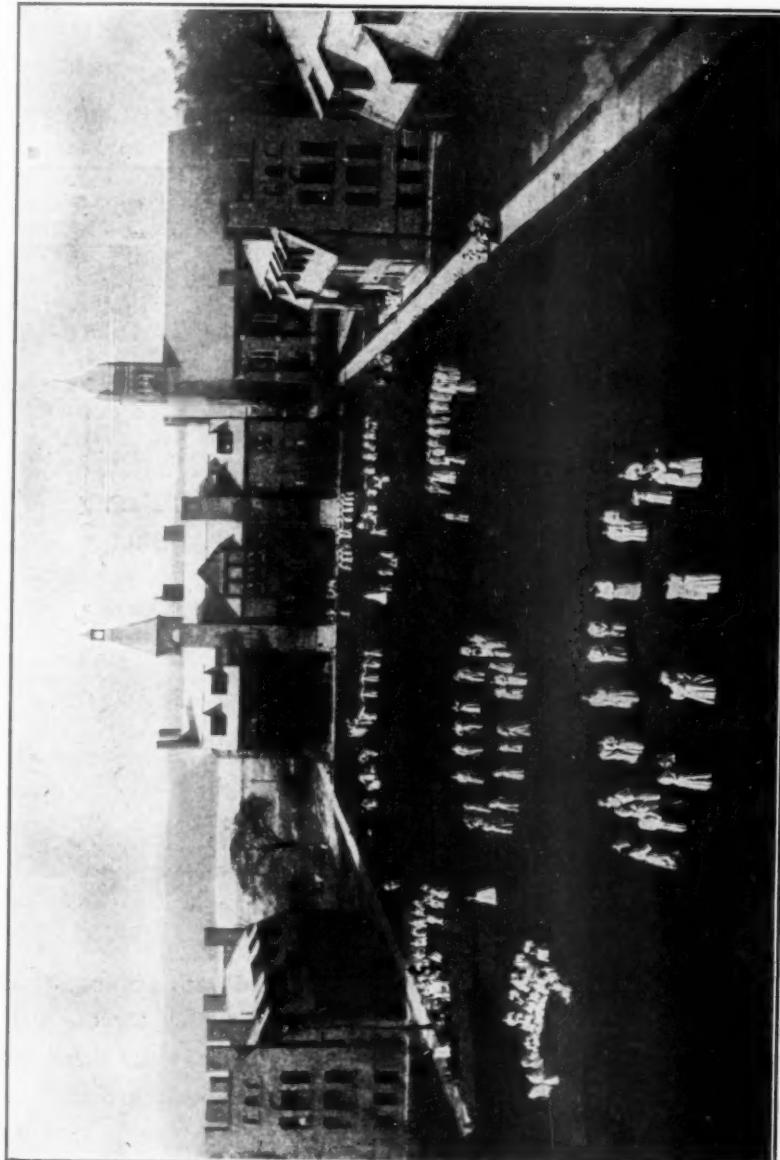
The Playground Association is open to hearty congratulation upon being located adjacent to the Mothers' and Children's Building. Here the babies are cared for, and the kindergarten is maintained. The playground work is closely related in its fundamentals to the work done by the National Congress of Mothers, so that a mutual recognition means a powerful increment to the force of each.

Jamestown is the first exposition to devote an entire building to the work of the finer, less material side of the world's activities grouped under the head "Social Economy." The Playground belongs with these movements, and the altness of the public mind to its work, as shown so clearly in these few days, promises well not only for its own future, but for that of the many allied interests grouped with it and having similar aims.

HOWARD BRADSTREET,
General Director.

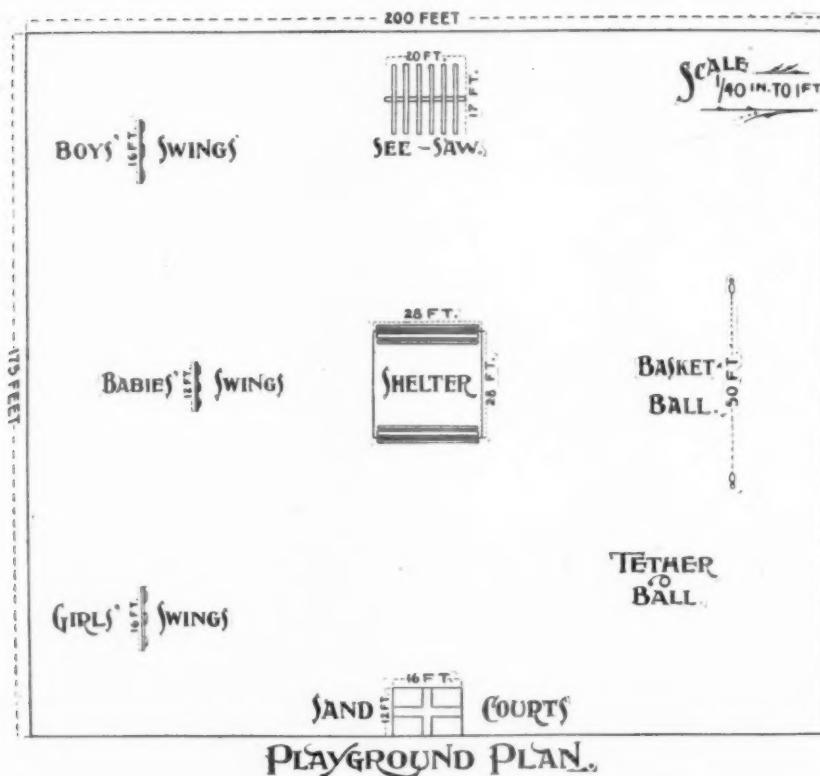


BASKET BALL, NEW YORK STATE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, HUDSON, NEW YORK



SUMMER EVENING SCENE AT NEW YORK STATE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS,
HUDSON, NEW YORK

BROOKLYN SOCIETY FOR PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS
FOR CHILDREN.



This includes a Shelter, roofed or covered with awning. See-saws, two sets of Swings, a smaller roofed shelter for the Baby Swings, four Sand Courts with a protecting roof over them, and each court or box to have a cover to be used and padlocked at night; Basket and Tether Ball.

The cost of this equipment—carpenter made—is about five hundred dollars.

—BROOKLYN PLAYGROUND SOCIETY

WORK OF BROOKLYN SOCIETY FOR PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS FOR CHILDREN.

The Brooklyn Society for Parks and Playgrounds for Children was incorporated in 1889, so may be counted among pioneers in playground work. During the activities of this Society ten different playgrounds have been maintained in Brooklyn—now a borough of the City of New York; these have given to the children of crowded tenement-house sections a safe and happy "place to play." One playground established and for seven years maintained by the Society, is now supported by a Social Settlement, which was its outgrowth; others have passed as "vacant lots," but each has its effect on the neighborhood, and in several instances has given impetus to playgrounds to be established by the city and municipally maintained. There is, however, still great need for philanthropic work along playground lines, as will be demonstrated by the large attendance at the two now under charge of the Society, some photographs reproduced for this number will in part tell their story.

At the Jamestown Exhibit may be seen a model in cardboard of the playground under the arches of the Brooklyn Bridge. The model was made by the playground workers, the children made little hammocks—in raffia—to suggest those in which the small "Fathers and Mothers" of the playground place their babies, and, to make them "more real," the children dressed the little dolls to put in the hammocks and to swing in what most children in and about New York term the "Scups."



BROOKLYN PLAYGROUND SOCIETY—

The spirit of patriotism can be fostered and should pervade a playground. Impetus toward this is given by the "Marching for Flag Salute," a scene depicted on the cover of this number of THE PLAYGROUND.

The opening of a new playground in Brooklyn this summer was signalized by the presentation of a beautiful flag by the McPherson-Doane Grand Army Post. No further announcement to the neighborhood was required, and for blocks parents as well as children responded.

"How to make a playground" is a query often put to an officer of this Society who has had the experience of "Vacant Lot" playgrounds philanthropically maintained, where tenancy was uncertain and expense of special consideration; with a private play-place, a sort of club, kept like a little garden and much frequented by "little grandes," also with "choosing sites" for some municipal playgrounds in congested sections of New York City.

The little plan, scaled to the inch, which appears in this number, is one often used by the Brooklyn Society for Parks and Playgrounds for Children as covering the need for simple carpenter-made equipment in a limited space. If a larger ground be possible, there is still advantage in having in compact form certain playground apparatus that shelter; swings, see-saws, etc., may all be easily supervised by the Director.

If more space than outlined in the little plan be available, the outlying grounds may be

used for various sports. When permanency is assured and finances permit, other equipment can be added.



—BROOKLYN PLAYGROUND SOCIETY

Set aside a space for the making of small gardens if possible. In a tenement house neighborhood to dig and plant is luxury as well as joy for the children. The faces of two "little farmers," whose care of their gardens and crops made them prize winners this summer, tell their own story.



"Do you want the playground again next year?" meets with the chorus from playground children: "Every year!"

KOTORI.

In Japan the children play a game called KOTORI; or, Child Catching. Ranging themselves in a row with the largest child at the head and the smallest placed protectingly at the end of the row—for the game as described to the Editor by Mr. Masujiro Honda, of Tokyo, is illustrative of "brotherly love." Now comes the Oni—Devil or Ogre—he is the "Catcher." The children run, swaying from side to side, to avoid the Oni, and the first child runs with arms outstretched. If the Oni can reach and touch the little child at the end of the row, the game begins with another Oni, chosen as is the leader of the children by a counting game.

JANKEN—name of the game.

JAN-KEN-PON—something like one, two, three.

The counting group of children hold out their hands as they may choose. One at right angle with its body, as representing a piece of paper; one with forefinger and middle finger extended, like a pair of scissors; and another, fist-like, to represent a stone. Now the paper can be cut by the scissors, but the stone can smash them; the paper in turn can wrap the stone. Sometimes it is a tie, at others easily ascertained who has won; and the game is interesting in its psychology of choice.

KINDERGARTEN MOTHERS' SEASHORE CAMP—

KINDERGARTEN MOTHERS' SEASHORE CAMP.

THIS IS THE STORY OF A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT.

During the Spring notices were sent out to the Mothers' Clubs and Parents' Associations of the Public Schools of Brooklyn, and to the Mothers' Clubs of the Brooklyn Free Kindergarten Society. The following is a copy:



*"O its I that am the captain of a tidy little Ship
Of a ship that goes a-sailing on the Pond.
And my ship it keeps a-turning all around and all about;
But when I'm a little older I shall find the secret out
How to send my vessel sailing on beyond."*

R. L. S.

Through the combined efforts of the Mothers' Clubs and Parents' Associations connected with the Public School kindergartens of Brooklyn, a

SEASHORE TENT

is to be established. This will enable hundreds of Brooklyn children to enjoy the simple pleasures of sand and sea without the over-stimulating and unwholesome conditions of the crowded popular resorts.

The plan provides that kindergartens, Mothers' Clubs or individual mothers with their children, may make excursions to a quiet beach during the spring, summer and fall months.

Here a suitably equipped tent, under the personal direction of a kindergartner, will contribute to the pleasure and comfort of the day.

An appeal is made to the Mothers' Clubs and friends of children to give the child something better than the city streets, especially in the summer.

The fund, already started, needs generous support. The committee will welcome the financial aid of all friends of children who wish to be identified with the first concerted work of the Brooklyn Mothers' Associations.

FANNIEBELLE CURTIS,
Director of Public School Kindergartens.

About seven hundred dollars was soon subscribed; later came an announcement with the same attractive little ship and verse at the head, and the following text:

The Seashore Tent for the members of the Kindergarten Mothers' Clubs and their children will be opened at Coney Island July tenth.

The Camp will be open every day, with the exception of Sunday, through the summer from ten o'clock in the morning until four o'clock in the afternoon, and a kindergartner will be in charge.

Your season ticket will admit you, and your children under ten years of age, to all the privileges of the Camp.

LOCATION: East of Coney Island on Sea Breeze Avenue, directly back of City Park and next to the Reception Hospital. Look for the Camp flag.

CAR LINES: The Franklin Avenue and DeKalb cars pass by the Camp

—A STREET PAGEANT

(five cent fare). The Smith Street car is convenient (five cent fare). All other lines, both elevated and surface, are near (ten cent fare).

With your luncheon you are requested to bring cups for milk, which will be served to the children.

The equipment of the Camp consisted of a portable house of good size, two tents, and the freedom of a nearby beach. A milk station was established and successfully maintained during the summer.

More than five thousand used and enjoyed this unique "Playground-by-the-Sea," and are looking forward to future happy times there—and they paid for it themselves.

A STREET PAGEANT.

Delegates to the Convention in Chicago will recall the charm of Dr. Scudder's presentation of a Play Festival at the New Paltz State Normal School—which has been enjoyed by a larger public in the "Play" number of Charities.

The following description of a street pageant, prepared by special request for this issue of THE PLAYGROUND, will tell its own story:

As a close to their year's work in History, the seventh grade of the New Paltz State Normal School annually holds a play festival. In June, 1907, this took the form of a street pageant and series of tableaux, for which all of the costuming and related handwork were done by the children.

In the pageant the various characters were arranged to form a cross, which was the symbol of the crusades. This pageant represented a crusading army on its way to the Holy Land, the stations in life from which crusaders and pilgrims came, their methods of travel, the leaders of various expeditions, the nations which contributed most toward the movement, the instigators of the wars and the Christians' opponent, the Saracen.

The tableaux showed the sequence of the work in the grade during the year, by representing the vital scenes and events of and related to the crusades.

The interest in the historical part was emphasized by the beauty of the setting. Green trees, with their branches meeting overhead, bordered the various streets. As the sunlight sifted through the leaves upon the gay trappings of the horses and the varied costumes of the children the effect produced was very pleasing.

MICHAELA CARROLL.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS—

SHAKESPEARE OUT OF DOORS.

The children of a community echo as well as illustrate its mentality. The children of Onteora—a summer colony in the Catskill Mountains, 2500 feet above sea level—play poetically.

On a recent summer afternoon they presented scenes from "Mid-summer Night's Dream," with song accompaniment. The "part in a wood," where the play took place, might have been the veritable sylvan glade where Titania and her fairies, Oberon and his attendants, did love to be. That Will O' The Wisp—Puck—was the embodiment of joyful pranks from his vantage point; invisible, on a stump, he sat smiling at "What fools these mortals be."

For children of themselves to learn of the great bard and as "Woodland Players" to speak his lines, is a result twofold happy.



SUSTAINING MEMBERS, PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

Name.	Amount.	Name.	Amount.
Dr. Annie J. Anderson.....	\$10.00	J. L. Hudson.....	\$10.00
Joshua L. Baily.....	10.00	Mrs. Richard M. Hoe.....	10.00
Miss Fanny M. Bean.....	10.00	Richard M. Hoe.....	10.00
Mrs. Jul. Beer.....	10.00	James Loeb.....	10.00
Eugene M. Bernard.....	10.00	Mrs. Frank M. Lupton.....	20.00
Mrs. James Tilton Bowen....	10.00	Mrs. Marvin T. Lyon.....	10.00
C. A. Coffin.....	25.00	Miss E. F. Mason.....	10.00
Columbus Playground Ass'n..	10.00	Miss Ida Mason.....	25.00
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